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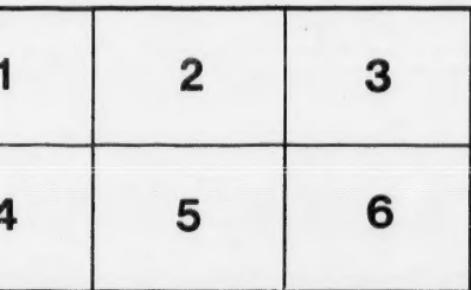
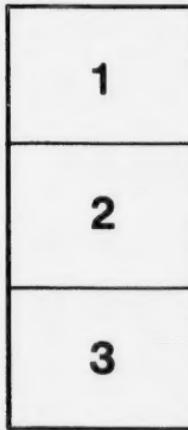
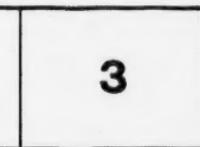
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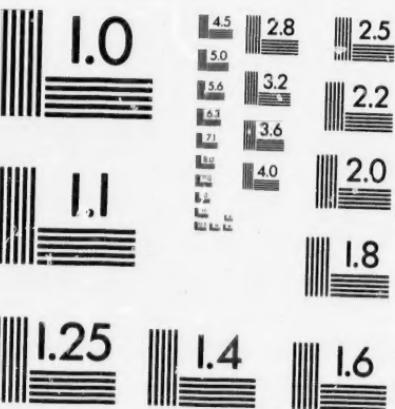
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DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

Diocesan Church Society.

OCCASIONAL PAPER.

No. IV.

PRESENT NEEDS OF THE DIOCESE.

WE may look at the state of our Diocese with feelings of thankfulness to Almighty God for many past mercies, for much honest and faithful work being done from week to week in both old and new Missions ; and yet we cannot blind our eyes to the fact that there are several Missions now lying vacant, and much ground still unoccupied in our Home Mission Field.

VACANT MISSIONS.

And *First* we find that at the present time there are nine fields of labour without the services of a Missionary Priest ; some of them having enjoyed the spiritual privileges of the Church for many years, and some having been set off as new pastures for only a few years. The names of these vacant Missions are : Aberdeen, Albert, Cambridge, Canterbury, Douglas, Grand Falls, Madawaska, Point du Chene and Waterford.

I.

ALBERT and MADAWASKA, as Missions of the Church, comprise, as is generally known, two whole Counties. In the former the work is by no means new, but no settled Missionary has stayed there much longer than a year at a time for more than twenty years; so that if the Church Society grants aid to Albert, it may almost claim the establishment of a New Mission. Madawaska, however, is a County where the members of the Church are very few, and the prospects of an increase necessarily small, the population being chiefly French. Are we not to care for the few souls because they are few? It seems indeed that these two Counties cry to us as loudly as any part of our Mission Field for the help which ought to be given.

II.

Next, CAMBRIDGE and DOUGLAS are two of our oldest Missions, but neither of them very strong in point of numbers or in respect of the wealth of their Church members. CAMBRIDGE, however, through the generosity of the late Samuel Scovil, has an endowment for one of its Churches, and it is hoped will be able before long to relieve the Church Society of any further Grant. At present the Grant is only \$160 to this Mission.

III.

DOUGLAS may be said to be in a far weaker condition than it was twenty years ago, the best and strongest part of it having been set off under another name—viz., BRIGHT. This old Mission then seems to need all the sympathy and help that the Church Society can give it.

IV.

GRAND FALLS, formerly a portion of the Mission of Andover, would seem from its position to form a good centre for Missionary operations; but for some years it will require the fostering care of the Church Society.

V.

Then CANTERBURY, perhaps less generally known than any field of labour in the Diocese, perhaps also less tempting to any aspiring labourer, ought not to be left to dwindle or perish. It has now been nearly twelve months vacant.

VI.

ABERDEEN and WATERFORD, being new Missions set off from older ones, occupy the same kind of position in respect of help from D. C. S. In both Missions there is need of immediate hard work, with the bright prospect of good and speedy results. But both sorely need the helping hand of our Society.

VII.

Lastly, POINT DU CHENE. It is hoped that before very long such arrangements will be made as will enable this Mission to receive the services of the Church.

HOW TO FILL THEM.

From this classification and description of the Missions now vacant, we pass to consider what amount of our Funds would be required to keep these Missions open ; and the answer is not hard to find—\$3,500. This seems a large sum of money, but all of the Missions now spoken of come under the head of the First Object of our Constitution, being either new or poor Missions. These should have the *first claim* upon our funds, if we would carry out the letter and spirit of the Constitution of the Church Society ; and it must not be forgotten that, although the rule of the S. P. G. is this, that “every Mission receiving aid through that Society should become self-sustaining in nine years,” in many cases, like Albert, Canterbury and Douglas, as well as Cambridge, circumstances have wrought a change for the worse ; and in point of extent of area, as also in point of the number of Church members, such Missions are less able to help themselves than they were twenty-five or thirty years ago. How then can the necessary funds be realized ? In other words, how can the Church people in the Diocese of Fredericton keep these vacant Missions open by supplying the needful \$3,500 ?

(1) Those Missions which are now in receipt of Grants from D. C. S. will be expected to undertake 15 per cent. *pro rata* on last year's assessment, as an addition to what has been hitherto required of them. This in some cases may press hardly, where great effort has to be made in struggling places to make up the present Assessment ; but in no case will it exceed \$75, which is after all a small sum when divided among a whole congregation, or

it may be among three or four congregations. This increase of 15 per cent. on their Assessment may therefore be considered a fair share of the burden to be borne by Missions receiving Grants from D. C. S.

(2) The chief effort should be made, in order to attain the end spoken of, by those Missions which for many years have been in the receipt of Grants directly or indirectly, and especially by the Town Parishes which have been endowed richly, or whose endowments have largely increased in value of late years. If the largest subscription of any year to D. C. S. from any self-sustaining Mission or Endowed Parish be spread over the whole number of Church people in that Mission or Parish, it would appear but a small return to Almighty God for all His mercies and blessings, and could not be taken fairly as an index of the wealth and affluence with which they have been gifted. We want larger offerings from the rich, and we want the small offerings of the poor to be at least ten times as many as they now are. Then the burden will press hardly upon none, and no Mission will either be vacant or closed.

It will be most encouraging to be able to state at the Meeting of the General Committee of D. C. S. to be held in St. John during the first week of July, 1882, that the old debts of the Society have been entirely liquidated, and that the Board of Missions will begin the work of another year free from any discouraging encumbrance; and it is earnestly hoped that in the future, through the liberal offerings of Churchmen in the Diocese, that body will never be obliged, in making grants to Missions, to exceed the funds placed at the disposal of the Church.

*Issued by order of the Executive Committee,
June, 1882.*

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